

# Helping States and Districts Implement ESSA Requirements and Provide Targeted Support to Schools

**Passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** likely meant significant change for your state or district. To meet ESSA requirements and align with your ESSA state plan, you might be looking for the following:

- consensus among agency staff on the definition and criteria of ESSA tiers of evidence;
- a firm understanding of the ways in which the ESSA tiers of evidence align with existing, vetted evidence-based clearinghouses;
- a resource bank of evidence-based practices, which makes use of reliably rated studies; and
- a trained team of raters to add evidence-based practices in underidentified areas.

## AIR Helps Pennsylvania Identify Evidence-based Practices

AIR hosted a training to help Chester County, Pennsylvania, education staff understand the ESSA evidence standards and how they align to the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards. Building on that training, AIR is reviewing research studies against the ESSA tiers of evidence and the WWC group design standards. These evidence reviews will help Pennsylvania build the evidence base for its own online Evidence Resource Center.

## AIR Trains State Education Agency Staff on ESSA Tiers

AIR is providing training, coaching, and technical support to help state education staff in Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Oklahoma align research to the ESSA tiers of evidence. Currently, states must rely on existing clearinghouses to find evidence-based interventions. AIR developed a crosswalk to align the ESSA tiers with standards from other research clearinghouses. The crosswalk and technical support empower states to provide districts with accurate information to meet ESSA evidence requirements. AIR also is helping these states develop their own tools or clearinghouses that districts can use to find research evidence.

**The American Institutes for Research (AIR)** is well-equipped to support states and districts that are implementing ESSA requirements.

## Partner Testimonials

See what our partners say about partnering with AIR on ESSA implementation:

*“AIR was a terrific partner and resource in evaluating studies for ESSA evidence standards. They have a breadth and depth of knowledge about ESSA’s nuances, and handled the research side of evidence so we could focus on the education side. They delivered the information we needed, on-time and with excellent project communication.”*

—Dr. Joseph J. O’Brien, executive director, Chester County Intermediate Unit  
Local Educational Service Agency | Downingtown, Pennsylvania

*“AIR provided training and expertise that helped our team navigate complex national legislation and truly understand high-quality research. They were professional, engaging, knowledgeable, and made the intricate world of research methodology digestible. We are better prepared to evaluate studies and make informed decisions, and informed decisions lead to real results for students and schools.”*

—Dr. Noreen O’Neill, director, Innovative Educational Services, Chester County  
Intermediate Unit | Local Educational Service Agency | Downingtown, Pennsylvania

**Want to learn more about AIR’s capacity to support ESSA implementation?**

**Visit our Official ESSA Resources page** (<https://www.air.org/page/official-essa-resources>) or contact Lyzz Davis ([edavis@air.org](mailto:edavis@air.org)).